Government has streamlined the personnel policies of Science and Technology Departments to enable them to establish and grow the scientific culture essential to their efficient functioning. Instead of vacancy based promotions as in other services, a Scheme of Flexible Complementing (FCS) which provides in situ promotions to scientists upto the senior administrative grade (Rs. 5900—7300), has been introduced. It is based entirely on an objective assessment of merit on periodical performance review after residency period of 5 years in each grade. It accords due recognition to individual achievements of scientists in their respective specialised fields and encourages them to strive for better performances. This system of promotion provides satisfactory career progression to scientists in Science and Technology Departments.

There will always be variations between different cadres, organised services, categories of work, Sectors of Science and Technology etc. in matters relating to personnel policies. Each career pathways offers its advantages and dis-advantages.

Indo-Japanese Cooperation on Development of Machine Translation System

3026. SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether International Science and Technology Cooperation with Japan includes development of Machine Translation Systems if so, the details thereof;

(b) if not, what strategy has been adopted to benefit from the Japanese experience in Machine Translation; and

(c) in what manner the programme of the Department of Electronics on Technology Development Mission for Indian Languages relate to Indo-Japan Cooperation programme under Department of Science and Technology?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (PROF. M. G. K. MENON): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Department of Electronics has taken the initiative to study Japanese experience on Machine Translation. The possibility of collaboration with CICC (Centre for International Cooperation for Computerization) is to be explored in the area of multi-lingual/multi-scriptal Machine Translation.

(c) The Programme on 'Technology Development for Indian Language' is being initiated by the Department of Electronics. The objectives and planned activities of the TDIL Programme will be communicated for discussion under the Indo-Japan and other international cooperation programme.

3027.Transferred to the 5th September, 1990)

Foreign Travel by Scientists in Government Departments

3028. SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is no policy regarding foreign travles by scientists in Government Departments;

(b) if so, what is the status of foreign travels during the last 5 years for each technical department in terms of percentage of scientists availing foreign travels under 2 weeks under 2 months and above 2 months;

(c) what percentage of travels were proved useful with tangible follow-up; and

(a) what attempts have been made to restrict foreign travels and ensure each travel result-oriented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (PROF. M. G. K. MENON): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Information will be collected and laid on the Table of the House.

Setting up of Technology Information Forecasting and Assessment Council

3029. SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Science and Technology has set up a Technology Information Forecasting and Assessment Council (TIFAC); and

(b) if so, what is the justification of different complementary infrastructures such as Patents Service of National Informatics Centre, Indian Patents Office and National network like NICNET, INDONET, ERNET?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (PROF. M. G. K. MENON): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As a follow up of Technology Policy Statement (TPS) and the recommendations of Technology Policy Implementation Committee (TPIC), the Government has set up a Technology Information, Forecasting and Assesment Council (TIFAC). Its main objective is to facilitate forecasting and assessment of the indiganous and foreign technology and build up appropriate information system for the same. Since TIFAC is meant to operate on a decentralised basis, with TIFAC-like activities carried out in different sectors and appropriate agencies, for areas in which they are best equipped for this. As part of its information system activities. a nationally accessible decentralised technology information system is being experimented by TIFAC. This system is planned so as to build on the existing strengths of various national agencies. Information on patents is a distinct service which is proposed to be met by the patent service of National Information Centre and Indian Patent Office. Networks like INDONET, NICNET and ERNET cater, as communication networks, for meeting various other categories of overall information needs of the country e.g. economic, financial and industrial data etc.

International Conference on Machine translation

3030. SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that NISTADS is organising an international conference on Machine Translation; if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether programme for Technology Development for Indian Languages (TDIL) launched by the Department of Electronics would be discussed in the conference?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (PROF. M. G. K. MENON): (a) and (b) NISTADS is planning to organise a Regional Workshop on Machine Translation in collaboration with UNESCO in February, 1991. TDIL programme is also planned to be discussed in the Conference.

Encouragement to Meritorious Scientists

3031. SHRI KAILASH NARAIN SARANG: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Department of Science and Technology has a scheme for the meritorious scientists to improve work efficiency, performance quality and implement official language policy;